

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

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R 071532Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9176

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PL, VT

SUBJECT: WROCLAW ARCHBISHOPRIC SUCCESSION RESOLVED

REF: WARSAW 1332, 3/11/74 NOTAL

1. THE POLISH EPISCOPATE AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF BISHOP HENRYK GULBINOWICZ TO SUCCEED THE LATE CARDINAL KOMINEK, ARCHBISHOP OF WROCLAW, WHO DIED ON MARCH 11, 1974. BISHOP GULBINOWICZ, 48 YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR IN BIALYSTOK SINCE 1970. HIS NAME WAS PRESENTED TO THE REGIME SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, ACCORDING TO AN EPISCOPATE OFFICIAL, AFTER SEVERAL PREVIOUS EPISCOPATE CANDIDATES HAD BEEN REJECTED. ALTHOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GULBINOWICZ HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN DOWN THE LIST OF EPISCOPATE PREFERENCES, THE OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD PERFORMED IMPRESSIVELY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BIALYSTOK DIOCESE, WHICH INCLUDED HANDLING SOME MATTERS PERTAINING TO POLAND'S FORMER EASTERN TERRITORIES NOW IN THE

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ING TO POLAND'S FORMER EASTERN TERRITORIES NOW IN THE

SOVIET UNION. THE OFFICIAL EXPRESSED UNRESTRAINED JOY
THAT THE SUCCESSION IMPASSE IS FINALLY RESOLVED.
GUBINOWICZ'S APPOINTMENT IS TO BE ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY
7, WITH INVESTITURE EXPECTED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SANDOMIERZ AND SOME LESSER BISH-
OPRICS REMAIN VACANT, THE QUESTION OF FILLING THE WROCLAW
ARCHDIOCESE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES
PLAGUING CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS.
ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, CHURCH, STATE, AND VATICAN, ARE
DOUBTLESS RELIEVED TO HAVE IT SETTLED. ITS RESOLUTION
WILL NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE MANY LONG-TERM ISSUES DI-
VIDING CHURCH AND STATE HERE, BUT IT WILL IMPROVE THE
CLIMATE OF THE RELATIONSHIP. MOREOVER, AS A CONCILIA-
TORY GESTURE, IT COMES AT A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR THE RE-
GIME, WHICH IS ANXIOUS TO RALLY THE POPULATION BEHIND
THE PROGRAM PROMULGATED BY THE RECENT SEVENTH PARTY
CONGRESS.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WARSAW00080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0977
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760177/aaaacrds.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 WARSAW 1332
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <27 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WROCLAW ARCHBISHOPRIC SUCCESSION RESOLVED
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PL, VT, (CARDINAL KOMINEK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006